

What Is Claimed:

1. A cocoa oil extracted from cocoa hulls which comprises phytosterols.
2. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the oil further comprises tocopherols and tocotrienols.
- 5 3. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the phytosterols are campesterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, stigmasterol, cycloartenol, 24-methylene cycloartanol.
4. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the phytosterols are a mixture of free and bound sterols.
5. The oil of Claim 4, wherein the free sterols are up to about 90% of the  
10 phytosterols present in the oil.
6. The oil of Claim 5, wherein the bound phytosterols are the fatty acid ester or ferulate derivatives of the phytosterols.
7. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the cocoa hulls are from dried, unfermented or fermented cocoa beans.
- 15 8. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the cocoa hulls are from micronized cocoa beans.
9. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the cocoa hulls are from roasted cocoa beans.
10. The oil of Claim 1, wherein the cocoa hulls are from *Theobroma cacao*.
11. A cocoa oil which is prepared by a process comprising the steps of:  
20 a) grinding cocoa hulls;  
b) treating the ground cocoa hulls with a solvent which extracts the phytosterols and tocols;  
c) removing the solvent; and  
d) recovering the cocoa oil.
- 25 12. A cocoa oil which comprises phytosterols extracted from cocoa hulls, for use in a method of medical treatment of a human or an animal body by therapy.
13. A purified cocoa oil extracted from cocoa hulls, which oil comprises phytosterols.
- 30 14. A cocoa oil extracted from cocoa hulls which comprises ferulated phytosterols for use as an antioxidant.

15. A process for extracting a cocoa oil comprising phytosterols from cocoa hulls, which comprises the steps of:
  - a) grinding the cocoa hulls;
  - b) treating the ground cocoa hulls with a solvent which extracts the
- 5   phytosterols and tocols;
  - c) removing the solvent; and
  - d) recovering the cocoa oil.
16. The process of Claim 15, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of petroleum ether, hexane, pentane, and ethyl ether.
- 10   17. The process of Claim 15, wherein the solvent is petroleum ether.
18. The process of Claim 15, wherein the solvent is recovered by vacuum distillation.
19. The process of Claim 15, further comprising the step of purifying the cocoa oil by preparative high pressure liquid chromatography or column
- 15   chromatography.
20. The process of Claim 15, wherein the cocoa hulls are from dried, unfermented or fermented cocoa beans.
21. The process of Claim 15, wherein the cocoa hulls are from micronized cocoa beans.
- 20   22. The process of Claim 15, wherein the cocoa hulls are from roasted cocoa beans.
23. The process of Claim 15, wherein the cocoa hulls are from *Theobroma cacao*.
24. A food containing the cocoa oil of Claim 13.
- 25   25. A dietary supplement containing the cocoa oil of Claim 13.
26. A pharmaceutical containing the cocoa oil of Claim 13.
27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and the cocoa oil of Claim 13.
28. A cosmetic containing the cocoa oil of Claim 13.